

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bradley E. Grose, Mayor  
Sabrina McCarty, Vice Mayor  
Keith N. Liles  
Laurie J. Mullins  
Michael W. Stovall

STAFF PRESENT: Cody Sexton, Assistant Town Manager  
Susan N. Johnson, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk  
Jeremy Carroll, Town Attorney  
Fabricio Drumond, Police Chief  
Andrew Keen, Finance Director  
Nathan McClung, Assistant Planning & Zoning Director

**The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00**

p.m. The Town Clerk called the roll with Council Member Liles, Council Member Mullins, Council Member Stovall, Vice Mayor McCarty and Mayor Grose present.

Roll call

**After a Moment of Silence, Council Member Liles led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.**

**Under upcoming community events/** announcements, Vice Mayor McCarty announced the following: July 23 - 5:30 p.m. -Mingle at the Market with Low-Low Chariot and Adam Rutledge – Farmers’ Market; July 28 – 8:00-10:00 a.m. – Pancakes with Police – Our Daily Bread; August 2 – 6:00 p.m. - National Night Out - Charles R. Hill Community Center; August 6 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Open House - Vinton History Museum; August 6 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – arts, crafts and local entertainment – Farmers’ Market; August 11 – back to school for Roanoke County; August 13 – 7:00 p.m. – Mingle at the Market with 5 Dollar Shake – Farmers’ Market. Vice Mayor McCarty also announced that a new group called “Litter Go Getters” will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at the Community Pool Lot in the Southampton Neighborhood.

**Council Member Mullins made a motion to** approve the Consent Agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Liles and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

Approved minutes of the Special Called Meeting of June 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of June 7, 2022 and Regular Meeting of June 21, 2022

**Under awards, introductions, presentations** and proclamations, Cody Sexton made brief comments and introduced Andrew Keen, the new Finance

Director. After comments from Mr. Keen, the Mayor and Council welcomed him to the Town.

**The next item on the agenda was an update** from the Vinton First Aid Crew. Chief Chris Sayre gave statistics for the Crew for the period of January through June of 2022 as follows: truck mark-up-329 out of 544 hours for 60%; 825 calls dispatched during volunteer hours (6:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m. – Monday through Friday and all day on Saturday and Sunday); responded to 478 calls for 58% and handled 418 for 51%. Depending on what the call is, either they make take the patient to the hospital or the career staff.

Chief Sayre next commented the Crew handled 347 calls that were dispatched during volunteer hours for a total of 7,534 man hours compared to last year of 5,103. The fractile response time is defined as the ability of the department to respond within a given time 90% of the time. The Crew's goal is 9 minutes, 33 seconds and their current average is 5 minutes and 33 seconds, which is measured from the time a call is dispatched to the time a unit marks on scene. They had an ALS marked up 21% of the time and a BLS unit marked up 59% of the time.

Chief Sayre next commented on the active recruitment of the Crew including visits to the high schools. Currently three people are in the application process and two of them are expected to join the crew within the next month. Two members have upgraded from various levels of EMT to Paramedic, which is the top level of certification you can have. Currently they have 27 EMTs, two advanced EMTs, two EMT intermediates and four paramedics and a few uncertified members who are in the process of trying to get into a class for their EMTs.

In response to a question from the Mayor concerning assistance from other localities, Chief Sayre commented that if they are not available, the call will go to another agency within Roanoke County and they have mutual aid agreements with the City of Roanoke and Bedford County.

With regard to a question from the Mayor concerning the amount of time a member must devote to the Crew, Chief Sayre responded they require a minimum of 24 hours a month which is two 12-hour shifts and they let you pick the days you would like to work. The minimum age is 16 and you do not have to be an EMT to be a member, but will have to

be certified as an EMT within 18 months of joining the organization.

**The next item on the agenda was a briefing on** the Town of Vinton's 2022 Annual Progress Report on specific mitigation projects set forth in the adopted 2019 Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that was adopted on October 15, 2019, by the Vinton Town Council. Nathan McClung first commented that this is part of the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) which enables Town residents with flood insurance policies to receive a 10% reduction in their premium because the Town does certain tasks every year and gets re-certified every five years. Mr. McClung next commented on the projects highlighted in blue on the Annual Progress Report that was a part of the agenda package.

In response to a question from the Mayor, Mr. McClung responded the 10% reduction is not automatic and they would need to talk with their insurance agent that writes their policy. Also, even if you are outside the special flood hazard area, you can get some form of reduction, which is less than the 10%.

**The next item on the agenda was to consider** adoption of a Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to file an application for the allocation of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) SMART SCALE funds for the Roundabout Project at Hardy Road/Bypass Road (Rt. 24) and Hardy Road (Rt. 634). Nathan McClung first commented this is Round 5 of this grant program and the deadline for the application is August 1, 2022. This project has been in the pipeline and has been referenced in the former long-range plans for the Town and the Region. The project intends to take the current signalized intersection and convert it into a two-lane roundabout, which would remove all of the signalization and allow for traffic flow both eastward and westward through different configurations. This is an early conceptual rendering prepared by RK&K and VDOT. This project will be administered by VDOT with oversight by the Town and the estimated budget is \$4,097,000. There is minimal right-of-way proposed to be acquired and the properties to be acquired would become future stormwater basins in existing areas that are not being utilized by the private property owners.

The project prioritization pipeline is a new VDOT program for localities and they hired RK&K to develop this concept and a solid cost estimate for us.

The Resolution tonight is in support of the application itself. Between August 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023, VDOT and their partners will be looking at the applications and then will make a recommendation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. By June of 2023, we should know which projects will be funded going forward.

Since this is a six-year plan and is the SMART SCALE 2024 application, we would not be looking at construction until at least 2028. We could start the preliminary engineering phase by 2025 and if the right-of-way phase happened sooner than two years, it would move the construction date to an earlier timeframe. This is a very long-term plan just like all of the other transportation projects that we work on of this magnitude.

Council Member Liles commented he did not feel that traffic backs up as much at this intersection other than during school hours. It seems like this project would be better fit to start at the Washington/Bypass intersection and he has never seen a traffic light so close to a roundabout like the Clearview light. Mr. McClung commented that there are shared sentiments about the Clearview intersection with its proximity to the roundabout. An intersection traffic study was done, but as the planning continues, the Clearview light would have to come into play because it could not serve the same function as it does now. Council Member Liles further commented with this project going into SMART SCALE in 2024, we are going to be in 2035 before we get the Washington/Bypass intersection. Mr. McClung commented there are other VDOT programs and potentially if next year the Washington/Bypass roundabout is a top priority, we could apply in the next grant cycle or explore other VDOT funds. Working with VDOT staff and our project timeline, the Hardy/Bypass was our top priority for this grant cycle.

Council Member Mullins asked if we get the grant the money would have to be used for the roundabout. Mr. McClung responded yes. Ms. Mullins next expressed concerns about the project and people going through Dillon Woods and taking the short cut to Clearview to come out at the light and avoid the roundabout.

After additional comments, Council Member Stovall made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Liles and carried by the following roll call vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) –

Adopted Resolution No. 2504 authorizing the Town Manager to file an application for the allocation of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) SMART SCALE funds for the Roundabout Project at Hardy Road/Bypass Road (Rt. 24) and Hardy Road (Rt. 634)

Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None.

Mr. McClung further commented that this is an early concept and when we actually get to the preliminary engineering stage, it is subject to change to a more robust study.

**Cody Sexton expressed appreciation to Chief Drumond, Bo Herndon, Public Works, Chasity Barbour and Donna Collins as well as Angie Chewing with the Chamber for their assistance with at the D&R Music fire on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.** The Town is working with Roanoke County to have a recognition event the first week of August for everyone involved and more information will be forthcoming. Mr. Sexton next commented that we have received notice that our second deposit of the ARPA funds is on the way and the State has assured us they have received the funds and will be distributing them within 30 days of June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Comments from Council: Council Member Mullins** commented that the Mingle at the Market on July 23<sup>rd</sup> is an impromptu reunion for the William Byrd High School Classes of 1989-1991 and there is an all class reunion scheduled at the Vinton Moose Lodge in August; Vice Mayor McCarty's restaurant shout-outs for Bob's Restaurant and R&D Coffee and Council Member Liles as well as other Council Members commented on the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and the tragic D&R Music fire.

**The Mayor commented on the July 4<sup>th</sup> event,** the Four on the 4<sup>th</sup> Run for the Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA, the D&R Music fire and the recent ribbon cutting at Henritze Dental Group in Vinton.

**Council Member Mullins made a motion to adjourn the meeting;** the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor McCarty and carried by the following vote, with all members voting: Vote 5-0; Yeas (5) – Liles, Mullins, Stovall, McCarty, Grose; Nays (0) – None. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.


Meeting adjourned

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk